

From: Gary D Ott
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Gentlemen:

I've used personal computers since October of 1983. I do not agree with some of Microsoft's business practices. However, the Microsoft operating system is the de facto operating system on the majority of personal computers in the world.

The Apple Macintosh had the first GUI, but Microsoft rose to the challenge and developed Windows. This is bad?

Netscape was a popular browser, but it had its limitations. Microsoft came up with a better (opinion) browser and gave it away. Why is this bad? Netscape could have improved their product and remained the browser of choice, even though their browser was a retail product. It was easier for them to bash Microsoft than to improve their product.

The government's action in the Microsoft case is (to me) just like the government's action with respect to Ma Bell. It wasn't necessary to break up AT&T just to allow MCI to provide long distances services. Rather than regulating business practices, the US government and the department of Justice seem to feel it necessary to "punish" companies that gain competitive advantage through sheer bulk.

Better the government should spend their time on companies like Enron who are engaged in what appears to be criminal behavior and their watchdogs, like Anderson, who seem to act in concert to promulgate the criminal activity then to destroy the companies who made this country what it is today. AT&T gave us the best telephone system in the world and Microsoft gave us the preeminent personal computer operating system in the world.

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